

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows.

ABSTRACT

An apparatus and method for management of nosocomial infections associated with indwelling catheters, in which an antimicrobial agent-based infection intervention device, such as an iodine-bearing flexible rod, may be inserted, dwell within the catheter lumen, and be removed through a side arm tube extending from the side of the catheter. The apparatus and method minimize interference with the use of the catheter lumen for other medical procedures, ~~eliminates~~ eliminate undesired exposure of the proximal end of the catheter lumen to the atmosphere, and/or ~~prevents~~ prevent back-bleeding of fluids from the proximal end of the catheter lumen during insertion or removal of the antimicrobial agent-based intervention device.